

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed September 17, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months set to expire December 17, 2004. Claims 1-50 are currently pending. With this amendment, claims 1-5, 8, 12-13, 17, 19-23, 26, 30-31, 35-39, 42, and 46-47 have been amended, and claims 9-11, 14-16, 18, 27-29, 32-34, 43-45, and 48-50 have been canceled.

Applicant has amended the independent claims to describe elements being included within a list. The elements are presented in list format in a first order in a graphical user interface. A first user input is received selecting a set of elements from the list. Responsive to detecting the first user input, a second user input is monitored for indicating a movement of the set of elements within the list. Responsive to detecting the second user input, the elements in the list are automatically reordered including when the set of elements are contiguous elements, automatically reordering the elements in the list by moving, within the list, the set of elements together as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order, and when the set of elements are non-contiguous elements, automatically reordering the elements in the list by moving, within the list, the set of elements as one unit. The set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously. One example of support for these amendments can be found in the specification on page 9, lines 6-24.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0091700 published by *Steele* in view of Office Notice. This rejection, as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner refers to page 7, paragraph 0111, as teaching selecting a set of elements. *Steele* teaches a tree of elements, such as in Figure 9B, where an element can be selected and moved to a different group using a drop-and-drag function. *Steele* teaches that a single element can be selected and then physically moved to another location. *Steele* does not teach selecting a set of elements.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that selecting more than one element is well known in the computer art. Applicant requests that the Examiner cite a specific reference that teaches this feature.

Even if it were well known in the art that more than one element can be selected, the combination of this fact with *Steele* does not render Applicant's claims unpatentable. The combination of *Steele* and the idea that more than one element can be selected does not describe, teach, or suggest the elements in a list being automatically reordered by moving, within the list, the selected set of elements together as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order. The combination of *Steele* and the idea that more than one element can be selected does not describe, teach, or suggest the set of elements appearing to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

The set of elements may be continuous elements or non-contiguous elements. Applicant claims when the set of elements are contiguous elements, the elements in the list are automatically reordered within the list by moving, within the list the set of elements as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order. The set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

Applicant also claims when the set of elements are non-contiguous elements, the elements in the list are automatically reordered within the list by moving, within the list, the set of elements as one unit such that the set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

Steele does not teach when the set of elements are contiguous elements the elements in the list being automatically reordered by moving, within the list, the set of elements together as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order and where the set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously. *Steele* does not teach when the set of elements are non-contiguous elements the set of elements appearing to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

The Examiner states that *Steele* teaches automatically ordering the elements in the set of elements based on user input referring to Figure 20, and page 9, paragraph 0128.

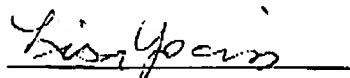
Steele teaches merely that a single element can be moved up or down. *Steele* does not teach when the set of elements are contiguous elements the elements in the list being automatically reordered by moving, within the list, the set of elements together as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order and where the set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously, or when the set of elements are non-contiguous elements the set of elements appearing to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

Steele does not describe, teach, or suggest selecting more than one element. Further, *Steele* does not describe, teach, or suggest when the set of elements are contiguous elements, automatically reordering the elements in the list by moving, within the list, the set of elements together as one unit as if the set were a single list element to create a modified list of elements in a second order where the set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously; and when the set of elements are non-contiguous elements, automatically reordering the elements in the list by moving, within the list, the set of elements as one unit and where the set of elements appear to a user as having been moved simultaneously.

Because the cited reference does not describe, teach, or suggest Applicant's claims, Applicant's claims are believed to be in a patentable form. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _____

Respectfully submitted,



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